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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/501,323

07/15/2004

Kensuke Fujii

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7887

22852

7590

08/01/2005

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EXAMINER

KRECK, JOHN J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3673

DATE MAILED: 08/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/501,323	Applicant(s) FUJII ET AL.	
	Examiner John Kreck	Art Unit 3673	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 7/15/04 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3 pages</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

JK

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glaze, et al. (U.S. Patent number 5,593,888) in view of "Gardening Series Basics Choosing a Soil Amendment".

Glaze teaches the method of purifying contaminated soil comprising adding a soil improving material (unspecified "other amendments" column 15, line 40); and mixing the soil by agitation while adding microbes.

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Glaze fails to explicitly disclose the nature of the amendments, and thus fails to disclose the water-absorbing properties and capability of maintaining non-swelling property and non-viscosity.

"Gardening Series" (page 3, under "Soil texture") teaches that it is advantageous to add perlite to clay soils to improve their permeability. Applicant's specification teaches that perlite inherently meets the claimed properties.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the Glaze process to have included perlite as the "other amendment", in order to improve soil permeability, for example; thus resulting in the claimed properties called for in claim 1.

With regards to claim 2; Glaze apparently discloses microbes not contained by the soil-improving material.

Glaze teaches aeration as called for in claim 3.

"Gardening Series" teaches inorganic material as called for in claim 4.

"Gardening Series" teaches perlite as called for in claim 5.

Regarding independent claim 6:

Glaze teaches the method of purifying contaminated soil comprising adding a soil improving material (unspecified "other amendments" column 15, line 40); and mixing the soil by agitation while adding microbes.

Glaze fails to explicitly disclose the nature of the amendments, and thus fails to disclose the water-absorbing properties and capability of maintaining non-swelling property and non-viscosity.

"Gardening Series" (page 3, under "Soil texture") teaches that it is advantageous to add perlite to clay soils to improve their permeability. Applicant's specification teaches that perlite inherently meets the claimed properties.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the Glaze process to have included perlite as the "other amendment", in order to improve soil permeability, for example; thus resulting in the claimed properties called for in claim 6.

Glaze teaches the microbes and soil-improving material separately added (see column 10, lines 36 and column 29, lines 29-30) as called of in claim 7.

Glaze teaches aeration as called for in claim 8.

"Gardening Series" teaches inorganic material as called for in claim 9.

"Gardening Series" teaches perlite as called for in claim 10.

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Nelson (U.S. Patent number 5,627,133) and Elder, et al. (U.S. Patent number 5,578,121) teach perlite for soil improvement.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Kreck whose telephone number is 571-272-7042. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30 am - 2:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Shackelford can be reached on 571-272-7049. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John Kreck
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3673

27 July 2005